ADVERSARY PROCEEDING COVER SHEET (Instructions on Reverse)		ADVERSARY PROCEEDING NUMBER (Court Use Only)			
(11101 00110110 011 110 1 01100)					
PLAINTIFFS Deborah A. Hall	DEFENDANTS AFNI, Inc.				
ATTORNEYS (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone No.) James J. Manchee, Manchee & Manchee PC 12221 Merit Drive, Suite 950, Dallas, TX 75251	ATTORNEYS (If Known)				
PARTY (Check One Box Only)  ☑Debtor ☐U.S. Trustee/Bankruptcy Admin ☐Creditor ☐Other ☐Trustee	PARTY (Check One Box Only)  □Debtor □U.S. Trustee/Bankruptcy Admin □Creditor □Other □Trustee				
CAUSE OF ACTION (WRITE A BRIEF STATEMENT OF CAUSE For actual and punitive damages, injunctive and declaratory for the Defendant's violation of the automatic stay and Chapt	relief, and l	egal fees and expenses filed by the Plaintiff			
NATURE OF SUIT  (Number up to five (5) boxes starting with lead cause of action as 1, first alternative cause as 2, second alternative cause as 3, etc.)					
FRBP 7001(1) – Recovery of Money/Property  11-Recovery of money/property - §542 turnover of property  12-Recovery of money/property - §547 preference  13-Recovery of money/property - §548 fraudulent transfer  14-Recovery of money/property - other  FRBP 7001(2) – Validity, Priority or Extent of Lien  21-Validity, priority or extent of lien or other interest in property	FRBP 7001(6) – Dischargeability (continued)  61-Dischargeability - §523(a)(5), domestic support  68-Dischargeability - §523(a)(6), willful and malicious injury  63-Dischargeability - §523(a)(8), student loan  64-Dischargeability - §523(a)(15), divorce or separation obligation  (other than domestic support)  65-Dischargeability - other				
FRBP 7001(3) – Approval of Sale of Property  31-Approval of sale of property of estate and of a co-owner - §363(h)	71-Injun	() – Injunctive Relief  ctive relief – imposition of stay  ctive relief – other			
FRBP 7001(4) – Objection/Revocation of Discharge 41-Objection / revocation of discharge - §727(c),(d),(e)		S) Subordination of Claim or Interest redination of claim or interest			
FRBP 7001(5) – Revocation of Confirmation  51-Revocation of confirmation		D) Declaratory Judgment processor of the			
FRBP 7001(6) – Dischargeability  66-Dischargeability - §523(a)(1),(14),(14A) priority tax claims  62-Dischargeability - §523(a)(2), false pretenses, false representation, actual fraud  67-Dischargeability - §523(a)(4), fraud as fiduciary, embezzlement, larceny  (continued next column)	Other SS-SIPA 02-Other	O) Determination of Removed Action mination of removed claim or cause  Case – 15 U.S.C. §§78aaa et.seq. (e.g. other actions that would have been brought in state court related to bankruptcy case)			
Check if this case involves a substantive issue of state law		this is asserted to be a class action under FRCP 23			
Check if a jury trial is demanded in complaint	Demand \$				
Other Relief Sought					
Actual and punitive damages, injunctive and declaratory relie	ef				

BANKRUPTCY CASE IN WHICH THIS ADVERSARY PROCEEDING ARISES					
NAME OF DEBTOR Deborah A. Hall		BANKRUPTCY CASE NO. 07-41566			
DISTRICT IN WHICH CASE IS PENDING		DIVISION OFFICE	NAME OF JUDGE		
Eastern District of Texas		Sherman Division	Brenda T. Rhoades		
RELATED ADVERSARY PROCEEDING (IF ANY)					
PLAINTIFF	DEFENDANT		ADVERSARY		
			PROCEEDING NO.		
DISTRICT IN WHICH ADVERSARY IS PENDIN	NG	DIVISION OFFICE	NAME OF JUDGE		
SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY (OR PLAINTIFF)					
/s/ James J. Manchee					
DATE		PRINT NAME OF ATTORNE	EY (OR PLAINTIFF)		
04/23/2010		James J. Manchee			

#### **INSTRUCTIONS**

The filing of a bankruptcy case creates an "estate" under the jurisdiction of the bankruptcy court which consists of all of the property of the debtor, wherever that property is located. Because the bankruptcy estate is so extensive and the jurisdiction of the court so broad, there may be lawsuits over the property or property rights of the estate. There also may be lawsuits concerning the debtor's discharge. If such a lawsuit is filed in a bankruptcy court, it is called an adversary proceeding.

A party filing an adversary proceeding must also must complete and file Form 104, the Adversary Proceeding Cover Sheet, unless the party files the adversary proceeding electronically through the court's Case Management/Electronic Case Filing system (CM/ECF). (CM/ECF captures the information on Form 104 as part of the filing process.) When completed, the cover sheet summarizes basic information on the adversary proceeding. The clerk of court needs the information to process the adversary proceeding and prepare required statistical reports on court activity.

The cover sheet and the information contained on it do not replace or supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, the Bankruptcy Rules, or the local rules of court. The cover sheet, which is largely self-explanatory, must be completed by the plaintiff's attorney (or by the plaintiff if the plaintiff is not represented by an attorney). A separate cover sheet must be submitted to the clerk for each complaint filed.

Plaintiffs and Defendants. Give the names of the plaintiffs and defendants exactly as they appear on the complaint.

**Attorneys.** Give the names and addresses of the attorneys, if known.

Party. Check the most appropriate box in the first column for the plaintiffs and the second column for the defendants.

**Demand.** Enter the dollar amount being demanded in the complaint.

**Signature.** This cover sheet must be signed by the attorney of record in the box on the second page of the form. If the plaintiff is represented by a law firm, a member of the firm must sign. If the plaintiff is pro se, that is, not represented by an attorney, the plaintiff must sign.

James J. Manchee Manchee & Manchee, LLP 12221 Merit Drive, Suite 950 Dallas, Texas 75251 (972) 960-2240 (telephone) (972) 233-0713 (fax)

# IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS SHERMAN DIVISION

IN RE:	§	Case No. 07-41566	
Deborah A. Hall	§	Chapter 7 Bankruptcy	
and Robert J. Hall,	§		
Debtors	§		
Deborah A. Hall	§		
Plaintiff	§		
vs.	§	Adversary No	
	§		
AFNI, INC.	§		
Defendant	§		

# CORE ADVERSARY PROCEEDING COMPLAINT FOR CIVIL CONTEMPT, DAMAGES, AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE OF SAID COURT:

COMES NOW, Plaintiff, Deborah A. Hall ("Ms. Hall" or "Plaintiff") and complains of AFNI, INC., the Defendant. Ms. Hall respectfully show the following:

#### I. INTRODUCTION

This is an action for actual damages, punitive damages, and legal fees and expenses filed by the Plaintiff for the Defendant's violation of the Chapter 7 discharge injunction.

## I. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

This Court has jurisdiction to consider the claims in this Complaint for Contempt and Damages
and for Injunctive and Declaratory relief pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331, 1334 and 1337(a), 28
U.S.C. §§2201-2202. The Court has the authority to enter a final order regarding this contested

CORE ADVERSARY PROCEEDING COMPLAINT FOR CIVIL CONTEMPT, DAMAGES, AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF - PAGE 1

matter because it constitutes a core proceeding as contemplated by 28 U.S.C. § 157(b) (2)(A), (E), (G), (I), (J) and (O). Pursuant to Sections 1408, 1409, and 1391(b) of Title 28 of the United States Code, venue is proper in this district/division.

#### II. PARTIES

- 2. The Plaintiff is the debtor in the above referenced case.
- 3. The Defendant is a Foreign business enterprise which may be served by serving its registered agent CT Corporation System. The Registered Agent may be served with process at its Registered Office located at 350 N. St. Paul St., Dallas, TX 75201.

#### III. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 4. On July 17, 2007, Ms. Hall commenced the above case by the filing of a voluntary petition under Chapter 7 pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 301, and the Order for Relief was effective on the same day, pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 301. The Debtors filed Schedules on or about the same date, which detailed the claim asserted by the Defendant. The claim was listed on Schedule "F", as a general unsecured claim.
- 5. The Defendant, Cingular and/or AT&T Mobility asserted a pre-petition claim against Ms. Hall in an attempt to collect a debt allegedly owed by them. The debt required Ms. Hall to pay money arising out of transactions in which money, property, insurance, or services were the subject thereof and the same were primarily for personal, family, or household purposes.
- 6. On July 17, 2007, Ms. Hall filed a mailing matrix with this Court that provided the Defendant's, Cingular and/or AT&T Mobility's correct address.
- 7. On or about July 17, 2007, the Clerk of the Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Texas, mailed out the "Notice of Chapter 7 Bankruptcy Case, Meeting of Creditors and Deadlines" to all creditors, including the Defendant, and other parties based on the mailing matrix previously

filed with this Court. This mailing constituted formal notice to the Defendant of the above Chapter 7 Bankruptcy. This notice warned all creditors, including the Defendant, in conspicuous language, against violating the automatic stay pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §362. The United States Postal Service did not return the notice sent to the Defendant. The notice was not returned. If the United States Postal Service has not returned the notice, there is a presumption that the Defendant received the notice mailed to it by the Clerk of the Bankruptcy Court.

- 8. On October 12, 2007, this Court issued an order granting Ms. Hall a discharge (the said order followed Official Form B18, including the explanatory language contained therein). The order discharged Ms. Hall from any liability for the Defendant's pre-petition claim. Included with this order was an explanation of the general injunction prohibiting the Defendant and others holding pre-petition claims from attempting to collect the claims from Ms. Hall.
- 9. On or about October 12, 2007, the order discharging Ms. Hall was mailed out to all creditors and other parties listed on the mailing matrix previously filed with this Court. This mailing constituted formal notice of Ms. Hall discharge and the replacement of the automatic stay with the discharge injunction of 11 U.S.C. §524(a). The order and notice warned all creditors including the Defendant, in conspicuous language, that collection of discharged debts was prohibited. The notice was not returned. If the United States Postal Service has not returned the notice, there is a presumption that the Defendant received the notice mailed to it by the Clerk of the Bankruptcy Court.
- 10. On June 12, 2008 plaintiff's bankruptcy attorney, Scott Lemke, faxed AFNI a letter advising them again that the debt had been discharged in bankruptcy.
- 11. At no time has the Cingular, AT&T Mobility or the Defendant object to or disputed the details of the claim in the July 17, 2007 schedules. At no time during the Chapter 7 case did Ms. Hall

reaffirm the debt. At no time during the Chapter 7 case was the Defendant's pre-petition claim declared to be non-dischargeable. The Discharge order is attached herein as "Exhibit A" and is incorporated herein by reference.

- 12. Following the October 12, 2007 discharge, the Defendant engaged in debt collection activity against Ms. Hall by (1) accepting the account for collection and (2) making written demands for payment despite the fact that the debt had been discharged. Copies of statements and/or letters demanding payment as late as February 17, 2010 are attached as Exhibits "B," "C," "D" and "E."
- 13. The Defendant knew and in fact had actual knowledge that Plaintiff was previously the debtors in a bankruptcy case and that they had been granted a discharge, and was therefore protected from any direct or indirect collection acts whatsoever by virtue of the injunction provided in 11 U.S.C. §524.
- 14. Notwithstanding such knowledge, Defendant willfully sent out collection letters to the Plaintiff in order to force the debtor to pay the discharged debt, all after the bankruptcy discharge had been granted.
- 15. The Defendant was aware that its collection activities would and did damage Plaintiff and her ability to enjoy life and her fresh start guaranteed by the bankruptcy code.

#### V. DAMAGES

- 16. 11 U.S.C. §524 and the lawful injunctions pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §105requires that one injured by a willful violation of the order and injunction of the Bankruptcy Court be awarded actual damages. These damages include not only reimbursement for financial injury, but compensation for non-financial injury as well, and further may award punitive damages under the appropriate circumstances.
- 17. The conduct of the Defendant has substantially frustrated the discharge order in this case and has

cost Plaintiff unnecessary time, effort and expense in seeking to enforce their discharge.

18. As of result of the actions and inaction of the Defendant, Plaintiff has been deprived of part of

her fresh start, and cannot look forward to a clear field for future endeavors.

19. Damages should be awarded in this case not only to compensate for the losses or injury

presumed and sustained by Plaintiff, but also to coerce Defendant into compliance with the

orders issued by this Bankruptcy Court and other bankruptcy courts in which Defendant may

come into contact.

20. Neither cost-benefit analysis nor proportionality is allowed in determining any element of

damages awarded, with the exception of punitive damages sought.

21. An award of damages to cover the value of any loss, any out-of pocket expenses or cost incurred,

including the value of the personal time of Plaintiff in having to deal with the conduct of actions

of Defendant, and in having to participate in this adversary proceeding is required.

22. Damages for the emotional and psychological distress that the Defendant's violations of the

Court's order and injunction caused the Plaintiff is recoverable, because actual damages include

non-financial harm to the Plaintiff as well as those of financial distress.

23. Plaintiff's emotional distress is significant in that it is not and was not fleeting, inconsequential

or trivial from the Plaintiff's perspective. This is evident from the fact that the filing of the

Chapter 7 bankruptcy was the Plaintiff's attempt to alleviate the otherwise insurmountable social

and economic problems they faced, as well as preserve the dignity they held for themselves. A

failing in the effectiveness of the bankruptcy that was promised to them returns the emotional

distress that the Plaintiff's originally intended to halt.

24. This emotional distress is distinct from the anxiety and pressures inherent to filing a Chapter 7

bankruptcy in that the bankruptcy process was intended to take the pressure off of the Plaintiff

from having to deal with these very actions and conduct of Defendant, and therefore the actions and conduct of Defendant cannot be deemed inherent in the bankruptcy process.

- 25. Due to Defendant's conduct, Plaintiff was forced to hire counsel and her damages include reasonable attorney's fees incurred in prosecuting this claim.
- 26. Since Defendant continues to harass Plaintiff, the damages are ongoing in nature, Defendant is liable for any and all future harm suffered by Plaintiff as a result of Defendant's conduct. The conduct of the Defendants have substantially frustrated the discharge order in this case and has cost Plaintiff unnecessary time, effort and expense in seeking to enforce their discharge.

### VI. GROUNDS FOR RELIEF

#### VIOLATIONS OF THE DISCHARGE INJUNCTION

- 27. Ms. Hall repeats, re-alleges, and incorporates by reference paragraphs 7 through 26. At all times material to this proceeding, the Defendant had actual knowledge of Ms. Hall's Chapter 7 bankruptcy filing and actual knowledge of her discharge in said case.
- 28. Defendant failed to cease its debt collection activity when it became aware that the Plaintiff filed for bankruptcy protection and failed to cease its debt collection activity as described in paragraphs 7 through 26.
- 29. The Defendant's aforesaid actions are willful acts and constitute efforts to collect discharged debt in violation the discharge injunction of 11 U.S.C. §524(a). The Defendant's failure to comply with the aforesaid laws, in light of repeated notices from the court, and its duties to update its reporting of the account under 15 U.S.C. §1681s-2(a), illustrates its contempt for Federal law and the discharge injunction.
- 30. The actions of the Defendant in repeatedly trying to collect the account after repeatedly receiving notices of the bankruptcy discharge, constitute a gross violation of the discharge injunction as

set forth in 11 U.S.C. §524(a)(1)-(3).

- 31. The facts and background stated above demonstrates that Defendant willfully violated the order and injunction of the Court as they concern the Chapter 7 bankruptcy filed by Ms. Hall. With this prima facie showing, the duty is on Defendant to show, as the only defense, a present inability to comply with the order and injunction of the Court that goes beyond a mere assertion of inability. Failing a showing of a present inability to comply with the order(s) and injunction(s) of the Court by Defendant, Deborah A. Hall must prevail and Defendant must be held liable for willfully violating the order and injunction of the Bankruptcy Court in regard to the bankruptcy filed by Ms. Hall. Any defense put forth by Defendant in this adversary proceeding can only constitute a good faith exception, as no other reasonable explanation can be made for the conduct and action of Defendant. Any allegation of a good faith exception should not be allowed.
- 32. Defendant failed to achieve substantial and diligent compliance of the discharge injunction(s), which applied to Defendant in Ms. Hall Chapter 7 bankruptcy.
- 33. Defendant violated the part of the Discharge Order of 11 U.S.C. §524(a)(2) which "operates as an injunction against the commencement, or continuation of an action, the employment of process, or an act, to collect, recover or offset any such debt as a personal liability of the debtors, whether or not the discharge of such debt is waived;..."
- 34. No exceptions exist under 11 U.S.C. §524 or other provisions of the United States Bankruptcy Code or other applicable law that allow for the conduct of Defendant in regard to the discharge injunction(s), as stated above.
- 35. The order and injunction of the Bankruptcy Court cannot be waived, except by the virtue of a properly filed and approved reaffirmation agreement, motion, stipulation or complaint. None of the aforementioned has been approved by the Court, and no waiver of the order(s) or

injunction(s) of the Court has occurred in the above-entitled and numbered Chapter 7 bankruptcy as pertains to the rights and remedies of Defendant.

- 36. Also, there is no requirement of mitigation on the part of Ms. Hall and that is relevant to violations of the order and injunction of the Court. Any attempt to burden Ms. Hall with policing the misconduct of Defendant would be a complete derogation of the law. It is well settled that each party to an injunction or order of the Court is responsible for ensuring its own compliance with the injunction or order and for shouldering the cost of compliance. Any such defense would constitute a collateral attack on the injunction and order of the Bankruptcy Court in this proceeding, which is prohibited. Any defense put forth by Defendant in this adversary proceeding can only constitute a claim of mitigation, as no other reasonable explanation can be made for the conduct and action of Defendant. No allegation of a mitigation as a defense should be allowed.
- 37. This Court has the power to hold the Defendant in contempt and issue sanctions by virtue of the Court's inherent authority to enforce its own orders, and the statutory authority set forth in 11 U.S.C. §105(a). Plaintiff request that the Court hold the Defendant in contempt to enforce and to protect the integrity of its discharge order.
- 38. Plaintiff has been injured and damaged by the Defendant's actions and is entitled to recover judgment against the Defendant for actual damages in an amount not less than \$6,000.00, and punitive damages in an amount not less than \$12,000.00, plus an award of costs and reasonable attorneys fees, for violations of 11 U.S.C. §524, and pursuant to the Court's powers under 11 U.S.C. § 105.

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, Plaintiff, Ms. Hall, pray that the Court will:

A. Find that the Defendant violated the provisions of the October 12, 2007 discharge;

В. Find that the violation of October 12, 2007, discharge by the Defendant was "willful" as that

term has been defined and also find that the violation of the October 12, 2007 discharge was

intentional;

C. Sanction and award against the Defendant all actual damages for all financial and

non-financial harm or injury incurred byMs. Hall, including attorneys' fees, costs and expenses, for

the violation of the October 12, 2007 discharge as set forth above;

D. Find the Defendant in contempt for violating the October 12, 2007 discharge;

E. Sanction and award to Ms. Hall damages necessary to coerce the Defendant into compliance

with this Court's orders, as well as the orders of other bankruptcy courts in which the Defendant may

come into contact;

Issue an injunction prohibiting the Defendant from further violations of the Discharge Order F.

in this case;

G. Award to Ms. Hall, and for the benefit of the undersigned attorneys, all of the attorneys' fees,

costs and expenses incurred in representing Ms. Hall in these matters;

Η. Grant such other and further relief, in equity or in law to which Ms. Hall may show herself

justly entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ James J. Manchee

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